

Worship and events schedule (Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates)

Worship 9:30 am — Fellowship time 10:30 am—Christian education 10:50 am

February

This month features a worship series on *Sharing the Seasons of Life*, focusing development and spiritual growth throughout life. Each Sunday several members of the congregation at various stages of life will share reflections from their life experience. The bulletin covers for these Sundays feature a photo taken by Vada Snider of hands from members of a four-generation family in our congregation: Maddox Crabtree, Nancy Mueller, Jim Mueller, and Ruth Boese. May this series foster intergenerational conversation and nurture spiritual growth for each of us.



- 1 **Sharing the Seasons of Life: Birthing**
Music by the Chancel Choir
- 8 **Sharing the Seasons of Life: Growing**
Music by Chancel Bells and Junior Choir
- 15 **Sharing the Seasons of Life: Settling**
Music by Chancel Choir and Cherub Choir
- 22 **Sharing the Seasons of Life: Saging**
Music by Youth Bells

March

- 1 **First Sunday of Lent**
Worship with sermon by Nelson Kraybill, President of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary; music by Chancel Choir
Bring food for Salvation Army
- 8 **Second Sunday of Lent**
Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Chancel Bells
Listening Project — Adult Sunday school elective led by Lois Barrett — Sanctuary
Catered meal for the congregation—11:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (RSVP needed)
- 15 **Third Sunday of Lent**
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider,
Kingdom Report by Jaime Cazares, pastor, Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania
Golden Agers potluck at noon—Fellowship Hall
- 22 **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir
- 29 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Junior Choir and Youth Bells



Bethel College Mennonite Church
PO Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Return service requested

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BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

February—March 2009/3:1



LET THE EXPLORING BEGIN!

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary has invited Leah Bartel, BCMC member and Newton High School Senior, and Ruth R. Harder to participate in !Explore, a theological program designed for youth who have completed grade 11 or 12, and for their pastors and congregations. The program is divided into two parts: **1) Group experience:** Ten youth and their pastors from Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada were selected for !Explore 2009. Unlike past !Explore groups, the 2009 group will participate in the Mennonite World Conference in Asuncion, Paraguay. Key elements of !Explore (practical ministry skills, theological reflection, spiritual disciplines, service opportunities, leadership development, visiting congregations) will happen in the context of South America. **2) Congregational experience:** !Explore participants work with a pastoral mentor for 20 hours per week for five weeks, usually in their home congregation. Leah will be exposed and intro-

duced to spiritual disciplines, theological issues and practical ministry tasks.

While in Paraguay, Leah plans to attend the Global Youth Summit, a three day workshop geared towards youth ages 18 to 27. The 2009 theme is “Service: Live the Difference”. Leah and Ruth will also visit Mennonite colonies in the Chaco giving both of them opportunities to re-enforce Spanish and learn more about the global Mennonite fellowship.

Leah will meet her 100 hours of congregational experience by teaching Sunday School, serving on the Faith Formation Commission, congregational visitation, assisting with Vacation Bible School and participating in worship planning and leading.

Jennifer Davis Sensenig, pastor of Pasadena Mennonite Church, writes: “!Explore is good news for a church that expects to follow Jesus joyfully

into the world. The participants are interested in the connections between Christian discipleship and the wider culture. I imagine these young people serving as church leaders form a variety of vocations including pastoral ministry.” !Explore is good news indeed. If you would like to learn more about !Explore, or if you have questions for Ruth and Leah, don’t hesitate to ask.

~ Ruth R. Harder

The following is from the !Explore website: www.ambc.edu!/explore

“!Explore is for the young Esthers, Davids, Marys, Timothy’s, etc. in our midst who have heard God’s voice in their lives, as faint or bold as it may come, encouraging them to be leaders among God’s people in the Mennonite church. It is for the young people in our midst who have budding leadership talent and spiritual understanding.

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Leah Bartel

Equally important, !Explore is for entire congregations, and especially pastoral leaders, who are willing to put time and energy into mentoring young leaders. Congregational encouragement and discernment is crucial in the nurturing of faithful leadership.”

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WITH OUR MEMBERS

Births

Abigail Eden Taylor, Jan. 15 to Crystal and Jason Taylor, Newton, KS

Child Dedication

Naomi Claire Koontz, daughter of Matt & Jenni Koontz, Park City, KS, dedicated at BCMC, February 1, 2009

Membership Changes

Mark and Gayle Wiens transferred to Trinity Mennonite Church, Glendale, Arizona, January 15, 2009

OBITUARIES



Beatrice Rosenthal Buller – September 25, 1920—October 12, 2008

Beatrice R. Buller of Beaumont, Texas, and former Newton resident and Bethel College graduate, died Oct. 12, 2008 in Dallas at the age of 88. Born in Duisburg, Germany, her family escaped the Holocaust and lived in Belgium and France. Bea immigrated to the U.S. in 1944, following her marriage to Henry Buller in 1942. They moved to Beaumont in 1962 where Henry taught psychology and Bea began a 20 year career teaching French and German in high school.

At retirement, Bea and Henry pursued a long-held dream; they lived for a year in Pezenas, in the south of France. When they returned to the U.S., Bea became one of the busiest volunteers in Beaumont. She was active in teaching English to immigrants, participated in Habitat for Humanity and many other organizations benefited from her involvement. She was passionate about intercultural understanding as an avenue to world peace, and she never tired of learning about other countries. Bea literally never met a stranger, and because she had experienced discrimination herself, she was almost completely without bias. She accepted people as they were and expected to be accepted in kind.

During her years away from Kansas, she enjoyed many visits to her Buller relatives for reunions and to Bethel College for alumni functions. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry P., in 1993, and by her son, René A. in 1969. She is survived by various Rosenthal relatives and by many close relatives on the Buller side of the family. The memorial service was Nov. 15, 2008 at Northwood Christian Church in Beaumont, Texas. Beatrice was a wider fellowship member of Bethel College Mennonite Church.



Ernest A. (Ernie) Unruh—Apr. 28, 1920-Dec. 20, 2008

Ernest A. (Ernie) Unruh was born on April 28, 1920, as the only son of Henry F. and Susie (Hiebert) Unruh. He lived as a young boy with his parents and five sisters in a small house one block east of Main on 17th Street. Two older sisters, Ruth Willard and Selma Fent, preceded him in death and one older sister, Sue Pack, lives in Modesto, California. Two younger sisters are Viola Unruh and Mary Ann Gertsen of Newton.

Ernie first saw Dorothy Irene Dudte on a fuel delivery to the John Dudte farm north of town. He realized a dream held from that moment on when he married Dorothy at the Bethel College Chapel on November 9, 1946. Through their 62 years of marriage, they shared all aspects of family, business, and mutual support. Their three children are a son Rodney, married to Sherry and living in Overland Park, daughter Teresa, married to Vance Arthur also living in Overland Park, and daughter LaDonna, married to Eugene Voth and living in Newton.

In addition to being a devoted husband and loving father, Ernie provided fatherly guidance based on his life experiences to his seven grandchildren, especially during one on one time with them. They include Richard Unruh and Kenneth Unruh, married to Katy, all of Nashville, Tennessee.; Chad Arthur, Alan Arthur and Melanie Arthur of Overland Park; and E Josef Voth and Aneka Voth of Newton. He especially enjoyed having Josef and Aneka living just across the street, allowing him to see them daily, watch their growth, and attend their school, church, and community activities.

Following graduation from Newton High School in 1938, Ernie briefly attended Kansas State, but he soon returned home to attend Bethel College so that he could help support his father's business. Ernie entered the military to serve his country in November 1942. He initially enlisted with the U.S. Navy, but his service affiliation changed during WWII and he was primarily with the U.S. Army Air Corps, now the U.S. Air Force. During and after military service, he realized his boyhood dream of flying airplanes, and enjoyed teaching others to fly at every opportunity possible. Following his active duty during the war, he was released from the military on December 1, 1945. He continued flying military aircraft through involvement with the U.S. Air Force Reserves at McConnell AFB through 1956.

Continued next page

Myron Voran 80th Birthday continued

Of course, as skilled as Myron is, he can't fix everything. He can't, in his words, "fix a broken heart." He learned this after his oldest daughter Kathy died as a result of a tragic car accident. Kathy was a Bethel graduate and an accomplished organist. Often when Myron hears the organ playing at BCMC, he thinks of Kathy and it brings tears to his eyes.

In 1998, Myron and Mildred moved to Newton and became members at BCMC. Referring to his retirement, Myron says: "It's amazing how much work you can get if you work for nothing." Myron has kept busy working on his own house in North Newton, building custom cabinets for the BCMC Kitchen (Look for Myron's cabinets at the North-east corner of the kitchen!), and building exhibits at the Goessel Museum. And while he at times feels like a "prehistoric monster," especially whenever he is near a computer, he enjoys life and he especially enjoys having his children and grandkids close by. Happy 80th birthday Myron! ~ *Ruth R. Harder*

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Orlando and Maxine (Ruth) Fast – March 20, 1949

PASTOR'S CORNER—HEIDI REGIER KREIDER

Times of crisis reveal what the church is really made of. This became clear to me in a new way recently as our congregation in less than a month mourned the deaths of five members, including two who died in a tragic auto accident. Each life was unique and precious; each death was a profound loss to our community, whether it came gradually from illness and the natural aging process, or suddenly and unexpectedly. We found ourselves shaken out of familiar routines and overwhelmed with grief and shock. Yet in the midst of these wrenching experiences, the church has been the church: Members of the congregation have been present to weep and to pray, prepare food and serve coffee, make phone calls and send cards, give hugs and listen patiently, offer music and share memories, contribute money and accompany others on the journey of recovery, affirm faith and choose hope. These are ingredients which, when blended together, create the bread of compassion and make visible the body of Christ - blessed, broken, and shared as a sign of God's healing and salvation.

The church's identity is equally important when members experience a crisis that is not so visible or public: The loss of a job, the arrest of a family member, a miscarriage, a silent struggle with depression, domestic violence, bankruptcy, an addiction... In these struggles, too, the church is called to be the body of Christ. Yet often we are hesitant to reach out, to give and receive support at times like this. How might we become more intentional in our ministries of compassion for one another, not only in times of physical illness or death, but in all of life's experiences of brokenness?

A time of crisis has reminded us of the tremendous gift of love that God has placed within the church. Let us continue to share that gift. In the words of our denominational vision statement, "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world."

LISTENING AND CLARIFYING—RUTH R. HARDER

In March, I will participate in two continuing education events designed and funded by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Both these events (*Listening Project* and *Clarifying the Call*) are part of a larger AMBS program called “*Engaging Pastors: Jointly tending to excellence in ministry.*” *Engaging Pastors* is an effort by AMBS to connect closely with the ministers, congregations and leadership of the entire Mennonite Church with the following goals in mind: 1) To generate opportunities for the seminary to learn from pastors; 2) To integrate pastors into the process of teaching and forming new pastors and thus influence how pastoral ministry is taught; 3) To honor pastors and their ministry by bringing resources to bear on it, and by learning from the challenges and opportunities faced by pastors in various contexts; 4) To explore the connection between teaching in the congregation in the seminary with the intent of strengthening both; 5) To strengthen AMBS partnerships with other parts of the Mennonite Church around the common concern for fostering excellence and fruitfulness in ministry.

Listening Project: March 7-8 at BCMC

Lois Barrett will be our “AMBS professor-in-residence” the weekend of March 7-8. On Saturday and Sunday she will meet with pastors, the Board, community leaders and all interested members of the congregation. She is not here to evaluate Heidi and Ruth. Rather, her goal is to better understand our congregation’s ministries, mission and unique contributions and challenges. She will also give our congregation feedback based on what she hears, including thanksgivings and affirmations. The congregation-at-large can participate in this *Listening Project* in two ways: 1) Attend the March 8 Adult Sunday School Elective in the Sanctuary at which point Lois Barrett and I will share more about this project. 2) Attend a free catered lunch in Fellowship Hall from 11:45-1:30 p.m. If you would like to stay for lunch and the conversation to follow, please R.S.V.P to the church office by Monday, March 2.

Clarifying the Call: March 26-29 at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

On March 26, Ruth will travel to Elkhart, IN for another *Engaging Pastors* continuing education program called *Clarifying the Call*. This weekend-long program, fully funded from the Lilly Endowment, is designed for pastors in the early years of their first pastorate. It will give Ruth an opportunity to look back on her beginnings in ministry and consider what blessings, strengths and resources surround ministry at BCMC. AMBS hopes that pastors who attend this event will develop a clearer sense of call and leave Elkhart with renewed wisdom for the years ahead.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MYRON VORAN!



Myron Voran was born to Paul Joseph Voran and Hulda (Graber) Voran on March 22, 1929. Together with his parents and two younger sisters, Norma (Voran) Preheim and Florine (Voran) Eitzen, Myron grew up in Pretty Prairie, KS. Myron was baptized at First Mennonite Church in Pretty Prairie, KS, on June 10, 1945 by Rev. P.P Tschetter. Myron’s mother was a teacher, and his father was a bank clerk and postmaster. Paul Voran also farmed the 80 acres which Myron’s mother inherited from her father, who was an immigrant from Russia. As a young boy, Myron remembers tagging along with his dad to the edge of town where the family kept a cow, chickens and tractors.

Thanks to his hard work on the farm, especially in the summers, Myron earned enough money to go to Bethel College. He was a football player (lettering all four years at Pretty Prairie High School) and played one year of football at Bethel. However, he decided that he was more suited for singing. “Choir,” he said (with a smile), “was not as much of a contact sport.” Myron graduated from Bethel in 1953 majoring in Industrial Arts. He then moved to Freeman, SD, where he taught two years of Industrial Arts at Freeman Academy Junior College. At that time Myron owned a “cheap Chevy.” He remembers providing transportation for his Freeman Academy colleagues Harold Moyer, Elvera Voth and Walter Jost. That’s when he also learned to speak a few words in Low German, which he said was an act of “self-defense.” After one year at Freeman he was drafted during the Korean War.

He served his 1W term by working as a psychiatric aid at the Topeka State Hospital. At this time, his soon-to-be wife, Mildred (Claassen) was teaching in Haven, KS. Myron and Mildred first got to know each other at Bethel College and thanks to the matchmaking abilities of his younger sister, Norma, Mildred and Myron were married on June 16, 1953 at Emmaus Mennonite Church in Whitewater, KS. In the years that followed, Myron and Mildred raised four children: Kathleen, Barb, Brent and Jeanette. At that time, Myron returned to farming. He also began to build houses (12 houses in 12 years!) around Pretty Prairie and Kingman. Having figured out that he was really “building the houses just for the cabinets,” Myron built a cabinet shop in Pretty Prairie and enjoyed many years of making custom kitchen cabinets and countertops for homes and medical offices. Myron gives a lot of credit to one of his grade school Industrial Arts teachers for teaching him the trade.

Continued next page

Ernest A. Unruh obituary continued

Sporting activities held a special place in Ernie’s life. He was privileged to be associated with Coach Frank Lindley’s 1936 and 1937 Newton High School state championship basketball teams, and participated in the 1938 state tournament, regrettably losing in the semi-finals. High school involvement in football and basketball carried over into two years of those sports at Bethel College and many more years of recreational basketball. He also coached various youth teams and sponsored adult basketball, baseball, and softball teams. He especially enjoyed following the Newton Railroaders, at home and on the road, along with other sports minded members of the community.

Ernie was a local businessman in Newton, having taken over his father’s service station and grain business in 1949. These businesses eventually grew to include retail gas and auto service stations, bulk fuel hauling, bulk gas distribution, a feed mill and grain elevator, bulk propane distribution, a commodity grain storage facility, and an equipment rental business. He and Dorothy worked together to operate a U-Haul truck rental business, from a location within a block of where he grew up as a young boy, until early December 2008.

In 1952, Ernie was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, and he served the Newton and Harvey County areas in that capacity for 20 years from 1953 through 1972. For a number of these years, this most significantly included the influential assignments of vice chairman of both the Federal and State Affairs and the Ways and Means committees. In providing a voice for his constituents, some of the more visible accomplishments included working with a group that facilitated the Kansas Board of Regents affiliation of Wichita State University and also establishing the renewal of driver licenses on the individual’s birth date rather than on a random date. His intent in public service was to do what he felt was right and not what may have been more expedient for his political career. Following his years in the legislature, he was selected to serve on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission which has oversight of government officials and employees.

Local memberships included Lions Club for over 55 years, of which he was a past president, Elks Club, American Legion, and Masonic organizations. These included Newton Masonic Lodge, Wichita Scottish Rite, Harvey County Shrine Club, and the Midian Shrine. He was a board member of the Newton Recreation Commission during the planning and construction of the present facility and at his death was a board member of the Newton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He also served on local water conservation boards and committees, focusing on maintaining the water rights of those in the area.

Ernie was a life-long member of Bethel College Mennonite Church from his baptism in 1936 until his death. He assisted with the construction of the church in the early 1950’s by hauling the limestone rock used for the exterior walls. He especially enjoyed regularly attending church with his sisters in recent years, recalling their Mennonite heritage and being warmed by the memories of their church-affiliated life experiences, especially through traditional song and verse.

At the age of 88, Ernie passed away December 20, 2008, at Newton Medical Center after a brief illness resulting from a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, surrounded by his loving wife and children.

The family wishes to thank their many loving friends for the overwhelming support they have received throughout this trying experience. The family also greatly appreciates the attention and care provided by Dr. Robert Roeser, the caregivers at Newton Medical Center and those from Good Shepherd Hospice of Wichita. The spiritual guidance provided by the Pastors and members of the Bethel College Mennonite Church have also greatly comforted the family.



Ray Nelson Funk—March 9, 1924-December 27, 2008

Ray Nelson Funk was born during a blizzard on March 9, 1924 and went to be with his Lord on December 27, 2008.

He grew up in the Bruderthal community where his parents, Alvin and Elma Schroeder Funk farmed. He attended Canada and Bruderthal Grade Schools. When Ray was twelve, the family moved to Hillsboro and shortly thereafter established Funk’s Gambles Store, a business that became his life for 65 years.

After finishing high school in Hillsboro, Ray was recruited by Otto Unruh to Bethel College. He played football, lettering all four years. He earned a major in Economics and a minor in Industrial Arts. Being the great grandson of the first settlers of the Bruderthal community, he wrote about the history of Bruderthal while at Bethel. For this he won the “Stucky Award for Mennonite History.” Ray had a life-long interest in people and a knack for connecting with them. He used all aspects of his education in service to others as a church leader, historian, businessman, entrepreneur, humanitarian and world traveler.

Continued next page

Ray Nelson Funk obituary continued

Ray believed in living his life by example. Because of this belief he entered the Civilian Public Service as a guinea pig for atypical pneumonia and also as smokejumper in Missoula, Montana.

On August 22, 1947, Ray and Betty Weinbrenner were married, and have welcomed five children into their family; Jan, Miriam, Mark, Rod and Carole.

Ray served as Mennonite Central Committee business manager for Paraguay, while Betty worked with the Women's Mission Society. Ray and Ozzie Goering set up a ham radio station. He helped import much needed supplies and equipment including a new D-8 caterpillar used to construct roads in the Chaco.

After returning to the United States, Ray worked alongside his parents at the Gambles Store and opened Trail Lanes Bowling Center. With vision and energy, he and several other Hillsboro businessmen founded the Hillsboro Development Corporation which initiated the development of the Hillsboro Industrial Park.

Four years ago, Ray and Betty moved to Newton to "retire." After many years of attending Trinity Mennonite Church in Hillsboro, they transferred membership to BCMC. They were fortunate to be together for sixty two years with children and their families nearby.

The legacy that Ray leaves to his family includes a passion for travel, an enthusiasm for new ideas and experiences, openness and love for all people, a love for reading, and sharing ideas and skills.



Dorothea S. Franzen—March 17, 1912-December 31, 2008

Dorothea S. Franzen died Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at Kidron Bethel Health Care Center, North Newton, KS.

She was born in 1912 in Emporia, KS to Jacob H. and Katharina (Quiring) Franzen. They and a sister, Wanda Franzen, preceded her in death.

Dorothea attended the Hillsboro public schools, graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1930. She received the AB degree with a major in Biology at Bethel College, the MA in 1943 and Ph.D. in 1946 with a major in Biology and minor in Paleontology at the University of Kansas. She began her teaching career in Kansas elementary and high schools, and as assistant instructor at the University of Kansas. She taught at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA, Washburn University, Topeka, KS, and Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, member and chapter president of Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma, and Delta Kappa Gamma, Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the American Malacological Society, Inc., serving as council member and a presidency. She received the Distinguished Achievement Award from Bethel College in 1975. She was active in the League of Women Voters and AAUW.

Dorothea was a member of the First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS, and Associate member in other locales where she was living—the Bethel College Mennonite Church in her retirement years.

Her extensive list of publications tells of her research on mollusks, sp. terrestrial snails, for nearly 60 years. This took her across the country and to England, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. When in 2003 she was no longer physically able to continue despite unfinished work, she gave her snail collection to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, where it would be preserved and available for reference.

Dorothea has citations for her mentorship of students, for her teaching excellence, and for "her landmark contributions to her discipline."

Dorothea continued her pursuit of knowledge to her last months with reading, books and periodicals of scientific, cultural, and current events. She always welcomed or looked for the opportunity for a good conversation—an exchange of ideas.

Music was an important part of her life. She was a violinist, a former member of the Topeka Civic Symphony Orchestra. She would not miss a good concert when available.

Dorothea was at heart an outdoors person, not to be confined too long to the classroom/laboratory or any indoor work. Her studies could always legitimize an escape to be refreshed in the natural environment, be it a weekend, vacation or sabbatical. She had a deep respect for our natural resources and concern for their conservation.



Norman E. Abrahams— January 16, 1923 – January 8, 2009

Norman E. Abrahams was born Jan. 16, 1923, in Goessel, KS to Cornelius and Anna (Dalke) Abrahams. He married Ethel Grace Ewert on Sept. 26, 1944.

Norman served in Civilian Public Service at Colorado Springs, CO, and at the National Service Board in Washington, D.C. from 1944-1946. He was an optometrist with a Hillsboro practice for 42 years. He was on the very first board to establish a volunteer organization, Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, which distributes used eye glasses to developing nations in need of eye care. Norman flew his plane on the very first volunteer eye project to Mexico. Many optometrists have since participated in the program, dispensing eye glasses to over a million people in many different countries. Norman enjoyed taking his wife, children and two oldest grandchildren to volunteer for VOSH as the organization gave away thousands of eye glasses. The Newton Lions Club, of which Norman was a member, helped collect eye glasses for the project.

In earlier years Norman had a true love for flying and often could be seen visiting the skies in his single-engine plane. He flew into Canada and Mexico on church trips and volunteer projects. He also loved to travel, spend time in the outdoors and enjoyed snow skiing and water skiing with his family.

In 1990 Norman and Ethel were awarded "Outstanding Alumni of Bethel College" and he served on the Bethel College Board, the Northview Development Services Board and other boards in first the Hillsboro, then the Newton communities.

In the last few years Norman could be seen walking the Sand Creek Trail, a North Newton hiking path along the creek with sitting benches and many varieties of trees. He was a member of the committee that helped create and maintain the trail. This beautiful spot in nature brought his family and him many hours of enjoyment.

Throughout his life Norman loved singing, most recently with the Bethel College Mennonite Church Chancel Choir. He valued education and had the honor of attending the college graduations of five of his grandchildren.

Norman died Jan. 8, 2009. Survivors include his wife, Ethel, children Nan & Don Graber of Monument, CO, Dwayne and Ruth (Regier) Abrahams of Newton, Nadine Abrahams & husband Norman Epp of Denver, CO., six grandchildren and one great grandchild, plus brothers Ray Abrahams and Chuck Abrahams, both of Hillsboro. Norman was preceded in death by a son, David Abrahams, who died in 1962, and by a sister, Verna Koehn.



Winifred E. (Regier) Ewy—July 20, 1921 – January 13, 2009

Winifred was born July 20, 1921, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to A.J. and Suzanne (Bargen) Regier. She was a middle child with two older and two younger sisters. The family lived in Freeman, South Dakota, before moving to Kansas where her father joined the faculty of Bethel College. She had fond memories of being a Bethel "campus kid."

Winifred was baptized in 1935 at Bethel College Mennonite Church by J.W. Kliewer. She graduated from Newton High School, and earned a degree in home economics from Bethel College. She met Lester Ewy at Bethel and they married on May 23, 1943, four days after graduation. They farmed at Arlington, Kansas, for forty-five years, and were members first of the Arlington Mennonite Church and then First Mennonite Church in Hutchinson. Winifred taught home economics at Pretty Prairie for ten years. Their family grew to include three daughters: Eileen, Emilie, and Rita.

Winifred and Lester moved to Newton in 1987, transferring their church membership to Bethel College Mennonite Church. In 1990 their daughter Rita died of cancer. "Love has gotten us through all the difficulties," Winifred commented, "First Mennonite Church in Hutchinson supported us during the farm crisis. BCMC walked with us during Rita's illness. Family and other friends shared love and support."

Winifred lived with Lester at Kidron Bethel Village since 2000. She enjoyed reading and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. She volunteered with Hospice, Et Cetera Shop, and Kauffman Museum, and enjoyed preparing baked goods for many Bethel College and community events.

Winifred died on January 13, 2009, at Via Christi – St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, Kansas. Her deep faith and life of service to others is cherished by many dear friends, and especially her family: Husband Lester G. Ewy; daughters Eileen Senner of Claremont, CA, and Emilie and Lee Parks of Overland Park, KS; grand-daughters Lauren Parks, Lindsay Parks, Lillian Ediger, Rosalyn Ediger and Diana Ediger; and sisters Frances Horan, Margaret Rich, and Donna Klaassen.

Winifred was preceded in death by her parents, A.J. Regier and Suzanne (Bargen) Regier, sister Betty (Regier) Wasser, and daughter Rita (Ewy) Ediger.